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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,730	03/16/2004	Sang-Yeon Pyo	1594.1369	1852

21171 7590 09/17/2004
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EXAMINER

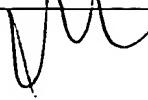
GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/800,730	Applicant(s) PYO ET AL. 	
	Examiner Stephen Gravini	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-16-04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 596.
- II. Claims 10-13, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 68, subclass 12.01.
- III. Claims 14-20, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 602.
- IV. Claims 21-22, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 68, subclass 139.
- V. Claims 23-25, drawn to subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 604.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of group I and groups II-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group I has separate utility such as having a condensing duct provided on an outer surface of the water tub, the condensing duct comprising at least one air guide therein to partition an inner space of the condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths which communicate with each other in series. This feature is considered to patentably

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distinguish the independently claimed group I invention from the other independently claimed inventions because that feature is unique and considered not to be found in the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group II and groups I & III-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group II has separate utility such as having a condensing duct provided on an outer surface of the water tub and an ultrasonic atomizing unit provided in an inlet part of the condensing duct to make fine water particles, thus promoting a condensation of vapor from air flowing through the condensing duct. This feature is considered to patentably distinguish the independently claimed group II invention from the other independently claimed inventions because that feature is unique and considered not to be found in the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group III and groups I-II & IV-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group III has separate utility such as having a water tub and a drying apparatus provided on an outer surface of the water tub, the drying apparatus comprising a condensing duct provided on a rear surface of the water tub and at least one air guide to partition an inner space of the condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths which communicate with each other in series. This feature is considered to patentably distinguish the independently claimed group III invention from the other independently

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claimed inventions because that feature is unique and considered not to be found in the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group IV and groups I-III & V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group IV has separate utility such as having a condensing duct to condense vapor from air, the condensing duct having an air guide therein. This feature is considered to patentably distinguish the independently claimed group IV invention from the other independently claimed inventions because that feature is unique and considered not to be found in the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group V and groups I-IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group V has separate utility such as having at least one air guide therein partitioning an inner space of the condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths communicating in series with each other, wherein a first air guide and a second air guide longitudinally arranged in the condensing duct between sidewalls of the condensing duct, partition the inner space of the condensing duct into a first condensing path, a second condensing path and a third condensing path. This feature is considered to patentably distinguish the independently claimed group V invention from the other independently claimed inventions because that feature is unique and considered not to be found in the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is considered proper because examining each of the independently claimed invention would represent a serious burden upon the Office.

Since the restriction is considered complex and the examiner knows from past experience that an election will not be made by telephone, this written restriction is considered proper under MPEP 812.01

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 703 308 7570. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira S. Lazarus can be reached on 703 308 1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smg

September 14, 2004

Stephen M. Shorin